

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 L-03 INR-07
DODE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 OMB-01 NSAE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /048 W
-----015596 271301Z /43

O P 271200Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9984

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ADANA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL IZMIR IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, TU, US, UK

SUBJECT: REPORTED ARREST OF TURKISH INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL

REF: ANKARA 9323 (DTG 251205Z DEC 77) (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: REPORTS OF ARREST OF HIGH-RANKING TURKISH INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL CHARGED WITH SPYING FOR US AND UK APPEARED IN NEARLY ALL PAPERS DECEMBER 26 AND 27. COVERAGE ON DECEMBER 26 AND 27 GENERALLY REPEATED REPORTING OF PREVIOUS DAY (REFTEL), EXCEPT THAT CUMHURIYET STATED THAT SAVASMAN WAS CAPTURED WHILE HANDING OVER SECRET MILITARY DOCUMENTS IN A "SAFE HOUSE" IN ANKARA. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOT COMMENT ON PRESS REPORTS, AND WHEN ASKED, MINDEF KAPANLI DECLINED COMMENT AND
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INDIRECTLY REFERRED REPORTERS' QUESTIONS TO OFFICE OF PRIMIN. EMBASSY HAS PREPARED PERSONAL GUIDANCE FOR USE BY MISSION PERSONNEL BUT AWAITS PRESS GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT.
END SUMMARY

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. NEARLY ALL TURKISH NEWSPAPERS DECEMBER 26 AND DECEMBER 27 CARRY STORIES ABOUT THE ARREST

OF TURKISH NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (MIT) DEPUTY CHIEF SAVASMAN. THE STORIES IN MOST PAPERS SEEM TO BE REWRITTEN VERSIONS OF REPORTS NOTED REFTEL. IN ITS DECEMBER 26 EDITION, CUMHURIYET ADDED TO THE PREVIOUS DAY'S STORY AND INCLUDED A REPORT THAT SAVASMAN WAS CAPTURED WHILE DELIVERING DOCUMENTS TO CIA AGENTS IN A "SAFE HOUSE" IN THE CANKAYA DISTRICT OF ANKARA.

3. DECEMBER 27 PRESS REPORTS THAT SAVASMAN'S CASE IS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED TO MILITARY TRIBUNAL DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY AND THAT HIS TRIAL MAY BEGIN LATER IN THE MONTH. ONE OF SAVASMAN'S LAWYERS TOLD REPORTERS THAT HIS ARREST WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW AND THAT HIS BEING HELD IN A MILITARY PRISON DOES NOT MEAN HE IS GUILTY. SAVASMAN'S WIFE, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN WHICH APPEARED DECEMBER 27, SAID, "MY HUSBAND COULD NEVER BE A SPY. I AM SURE THAT THIS CHARGE IS A PLOT AND A RESULT OF JEALOSY BECAUSE OF HIS SUCCESS." SHE CONTINUED, "THE INFORMATION CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN WAS PUBLIC AND KNOWN BY EVERYONE."

4. WHEN ASKED BY REPORTERS TO COMMENT ON SAVASMAN'S CASE, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE TURHAN KAPANLI SAID, "I AM NOT QUALIFIED TO COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT." IN A REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT MIT FALLS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRIMIN'S OFFICE, HE ADDED, "THERE IS A SPOKESMAN FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SUBJECT." THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMENT FROM THE PRIMIN, WHO IS CURRENTLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE CENSURE MOTION AGAINST HIS COALITION. TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION (TRT) HAS NEITHER REPORTED NOR COMMENTED ON THE ALLEGED ARREST OF SAVASMAN.

5. SOME DECEMBER 26 PAPERS ALSO REPORT THAT THE CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE OF THE MIT RECENTLY DISCONTINUED COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES EXCEPT ON SOME INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO TURKEY. THE CHIEF OF MIT ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE LIMITED AND ANY GIFTS RECEIVED HAD TO BE TURNED IN AND REPORTED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ALL MISSION PERSONNEL FOR THEIR PERSONAL USE IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS AND SHOULD BE USED ALSO BY PERSONNEL AT POSTS ELSEWHERE IN TURKEY: "I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE MATTER. THE CIA AND US ARE OFTEN ACCUSED OF MANY THINGS WHICH ARE NOT TRUE. MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER COMES FROM THE PRESS WHICH IS NOT KNOWN TO BE CORRECT IN EVERY INSTANCE." AS REGARDS RESPONSES TO

PRESS QUERIES, WE AWAIT GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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